

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) An escape mask assembly that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, comprising,

A. a mask in the form of a hood foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, said mask ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

1. a bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a filter assembly capable of filtering contaminated air or particles,

3. an exhalation valve forming part of the mask, and

B. separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means, not connected to the bag, to adjust and seal the hood around the neck, such that the exhalation valve is opposite lips and mouth of a user, and air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum.

2. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the transparent plastic film material is made of a laminate of more than one plastic material.

Claims 3-5 (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, which is constructed and arranged such that the hood is transparent only on the part that will be worn opposite the eyes, mouth and nose.

Claim 7 (canceled).

8. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the filter assembly is heat sealed onto the bag.

9. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1,

wherein the filter assembly is a multilayered filter assembly containing at least one filter layer containing an antiseptic effective against microorganisms and at least one filter layer containing active charcoal.

10. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 9, wherein the filter assembly comprises an activated charcoal filter layer sandwiched between two filter layers containing an antiseptic that destroys microorganisms.

11. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 9, wherein the antiseptic material is selected from the group consisting of clorhexidine salt and cetylpyridinium chloride.

12. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, which is constructed and arranged such that the filter is in the area of the nose and mouth of someone wearing the mask.

13. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 9, wherein the antiseptic filter layers are constructed and arranged to filter out particles greater than 2 microns.

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the exhalation valve is embedded in the filter assembly.

16. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, which is constructed and arranged such that the exhalation valve is in the area opposite the lips of someone wearing the mask.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the separate sealing means comprises an elastic band.

19. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the separate sealing means comprises two elastic bands.

20. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 18, wherein the band is of a size and strength to achieve a

good seal and still avoid choking the wearer when placing the band around a neck.

Claims 21-22 (canceled).

23. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, that can be turned inside out forming a bag after removal from the head, so that the contaminated outside surface will now face inwards.

Claims 24-26 (canceled).

27. (currently amended) An escape mask assembly that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, comprising,

A. a mask in the form of a hood foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

1. a bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,
  2. a connection means, constructed and arranged for connection to a filter cannister or to a source of fresh air,
  3. an exhalation valve forming part of the mask, and
- B. separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means, not connected to the bag, to adjust and seal the hood around the neck, such that the exhalation valve is opposite lips and mouth of a user, and air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum.

28. (previously presented) A method of enabling one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical or biological agents or combination of these, comprising:

- a) providing a foldable hood escape mask with separate circumferential elastic sealing means as in claim 1,
- b) unfolding the hood and placing it over the head and

neck,

c) stretching the separate elastic sealing means over the hood and pulling it over the head around the neck, and

d) adjusting and sealing the hood around the neck by manipulating the hood and elastic means so that the exhalation valve is opposite the lips and mouth and the air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum.